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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 3

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Egypt*, Indonesia, Kuwait*, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore*, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand*, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania* and Yemen*: draft resolution

1998/... Organization of the work of the session

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Chairman's statement of 18 April 1997 (E/1997/23-E/CN.4/1997/150, chap. III, para. 34),

Concerned about the harmful effects of politicization, acrimony and discrimination in the cause of human rights,

Reiterating the importance of cooperation and consultation as well as consensus-building in the context of enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission,

Concerned about the considerable increase in the workload, including the growing amount of documentation submitted to and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission over the years, and conscious of the need to make a more rational and efficient use of the time and resources available to the Commission,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Bearing in mind the need to promote constructive dialogue and increased transparency in the Commission as well as to ensure the participation of all States in consultations leading to decision-making,

Seeking to make further progress on the spirit and substance of the Chairman's statement of 18 April 1997,

1. Decides that the Chairman, or a member of the Bureau to be designated by the Chairman, shall conduct open-ended consultations on the issues included in the annex to the present resolution during the inter-sessional period on possible mechanisms for restructuring, revitalizing and further enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission, and report thereon at its fifty-fifth session;

2. Also decides that pending the outcome of the inter-sessional consultations, all draft decisions and resolutions to be considered by the Commission will be scheduled with at least 24 hours' notice and in a manner such that no more than two consultations take place at the same time.

ANNEX

Issues to be addressed during the inter-sessional consultations

1. Length and schedule of the annual sessions of the Commission and organization of work.

2. Restructuring of the agenda:

(a) Clustering of items;

(b) Periodicity of the consideration of items;

(c) Equal treatment to the consideration of all rights.

3. Documentation to be considered by the Commission inter alia:

(a) Preparation of the Commission's documentation and its availability prior to the opening of the annual sessions;

(b) Availability of background documentation;

(c) Contributions by Member States, governmental and intergovernmental observers and non-governmental organizations.

4. Methods of work of the Commission:

(a) Time management with regard to interventions and presentation of reports;

(b) Methods for organizing consultations during the sessions, including the allocation of appropriate time and venues for this purpose;

(c) Contribution of non-governmental organizations to the debate on the various substantive items of the agenda;

(d) Review of the overall system of submission of reports, inter alia, by the Secretary-General, the Commission's inter-sessional working groups, and thematic and country special procedures.

5. Overall review of the special procedures system:

(a) Special rapporteurs, special representatives and individual experts;

(b) Working groups.

6. Review of the staffing policy and overall support by the Secretariat to the Commission.

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